

~~SECRET~~EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTONCopy No. 9
70394

May 16, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: "Electronic Intelligence" (ELINT)

REFERENCES: A. Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary,
same subject, dated April 29, 1955
B. NSCID No. 17
C. NSC Action No. 1400*23 Oct 58
NSCID #17
Superseded. See
Revised NSCID's
dated 15 Sept 58*

The National Security Council and the Secretary of the Treasury, effective this date, approved by memorandum the proposed NSCID No. 17 on the subject, upon the recommendation of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, concurred in by all of the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee except the FBI member, who reported "No comment".

Accordingly NSCID No. 17 is transmitted herewith for information, and is being referred to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee for information and appropriate action.

James S. Lay, Jr.
JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence,~~SECRET~~

May 16, 1955

SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 17

"ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE" (ELINT)

Pursuant to Sections 101 and 102, as amended, of the National Security Act of 1947, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THAT:

The following organization and procedures are hereby established in order that Electronics Intelligence, hereinafter called ELINT, may be made most effective.

1. Definition: The term ELINT is defined as the collection (observation and recording), and the technical processing for later intelligence purposes, of information on foreign, non-communications, electromagnetic radiations emanating from other than atomic detonation sources.
2. The USCIB, in addition to its authority and responsibility as defined in NSCID #9, and operating under the procedures established under paragraph 1-(f) of that Directive, shall be the national policy body for ELINT, including policy in relation to the Technical Processing Center provided by paragraph 4 below, arrangements with foreign governments in the field of ELINT, and recommendations concerning research and development requirements.
3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency shall be responsible for their respective ELINT collection activities.
4. The technical processing of all ELINT shall be accomplished in a center to be organized and administered by the Department of Defense. However, parallel processing in the field may be accomplished for essential immediate operational or tactical purposes. This center shall be jointly staffed by individuals detailed from the Department of Defense and the CIA in a proportion to be determined by the Secretary of Defense and the DCI.
5. All data collected by the collection agencies shall be made available forthwith to the Technical Processing Center, subject only to minimum delays necessitated by prior exploitation in the field for urgent tactical or operational purposes.
6. The Technical Processing Center shall effect fullest and most expeditious processing possible and furnish the results thereof to the interested Departments and agencies, and to the extent practicable, in the form desired by them.

NSCID No. 17

SECRET